

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 03898 221404Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSM-03 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 /101 W

-----042183 221458Z /46

R 221306Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3600

INFO MAMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA 076

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 3898

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, ET, PINR

SUBJECT: OSMAN SABBE DISCUSSES LATEST MEETING WITH SOVIET  
EMISSARIES

1. ITALIAN EMBOFF MET WITH ERITREAN LEADER OSMAN SABBE  
JUNE 18 AND PASSED US DETAILS OF CONVERSATION. ACCORDING  
TO EMBOFF, SABBE SAID HIS FACTION HAD HELD SECOND MEETING  
WITH SOVIET REPS IN KHARTOUM TO EXPLORE ERITREAN ISSUE.  
SABBE DELEGATED ONE OF HIS OWN REPS TO MEET WITH YUGOSLAV  
AND SOVIET AMBASSADORS. THEY TRANSMITTED TO SABBE REP  
PROPOSAL THAT SOVIETS READY TO SUPPORT ERITREAN CAUSE  
PROVIDED SOVIETS RECEIVE ASSURANCES THAT ERITREANS WOULD  
BE "PROGRESSIVE". SABBE TOOK THIS AS INDICATION SOVIETS ARE  
INCLINED TO SUPPORT RAMADAN/AFAWORKE FACTION.

2. SABBE PRAISED IRANIAN RESPONSE TO ERITREAN  
REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE, NOTING THAT IRANIANS HAD MOVED  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DAMASC 03898 221404Z

QUICKLY TO ESTABLISH REGULAR CHANNELS FOR FURNISHING  
ERITREAN RESISTANCE GROUPS WITH SUPPLIES.

3. SABBE CLAIMED THAT RAMADAN AND AFAWORKE HAD BOTH  
RECEIVED TRAINING IN CHINA. HE CONTINUED, HOWEVER, THAT  
CHINESE WERE CURRENTLY ADOPTING "WAIT AND SEE" POSTURE  
TOWARD ERITREAN/ETHIOPIAN ISSUE, AND WERE NOT INVOLVED IN

PRESENT POLITICAL MANEUVERING.  
PELLETREAU

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MEETINGS, POLITICAL LEADERS, DISSIDENT FACTIONS, LIBERATION FRONTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 22-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977DAMASC03898  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770223-0089  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** DAMASCUS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770632/aaaabbbpg.tel  
**Line Count:** 64  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** ad8fe378-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 12-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2074290  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** OSMAN SABBE DISCUSSES LATEST MEETING WITH SOVIET EMISSARIES  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PINR, PDEV, ET, (SABBE, OSMAN)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/ad8fe378-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009